

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments above be entered before examination of the application.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as bracketed [], and inserted material is shown underlined.

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. The apparatus according to claim 1[or 2], comprising means (19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30) for causing said third roll (5) to position and align freely between said first and second rolls (3, 4) and said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 3], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said second angle is substantially 180°.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 4], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, said third half-plane is substantially vertical.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 5], characterized in that loading means (19) apply forces on the bearings of said third roll (5) so that the end regions of said third roll (5) abut said first and second rolls (3, 4) for any width of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 6], comprising means (11, 12, 19, 20, 21) for moving the bearings of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2).when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said winding roll (2) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7[or 8], comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed towards said winding roll (2) in order to press said third roll (5) against said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 7[any one of claims 7 to 9], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis (31) of said third roll (5) is located at a higher level than the axis of said winding roll (2) and that the weight of said first, second and third rolls (3, 4, 5) is at least partly supported by said winding roll (2) via said third roll (5) whereby said third roll (5) exerts a pressure on said winding roll (2).

12. The apparatus according to claim 10[or 11], comprising loading means (21, 23) for acting on the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) with a force having a component parallel to said third half-plane and directed away from said winding roll (2) so that the pressure applied by third roll (5) on winding roll (2) is maximal in the middle region of said winding roll (2) and diminishes progressively towards its edges when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 6[any one of claims 1 to 6], comprising means for moving the bearings of said winding roll (2) along a common direction not perpendicular to said third half-plane and preferably parallel to said third half-plane, in order to adapt to the diameter of said winding roll (2) when said apparatus is in said nominal winding position, the bearings of said first and second rolls (3, 4) being held fixed in said nominal winding position.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13[or 14], characterized in that, in said nominal winding position, the axis of said

winding roll (2) is located at a higher level than the axis of said third roll (5) and in that the weight of said winding roll (2) is partly reported on said third roll (5) so that said third roll (5) exerts a reaction pressure on said winding roll (2).

17. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 16], characterized in that for each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming in contact with said web (1), it comprises means for selectively causing said roll either to rotate in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1), or to act as an idle roll.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claim 1 to 17], comprising means for selectively causing at least said first or second roll (3, 4) either to act as an idle roll, or to rotate in a direction and at a speed whereby, when said third roll (5) is in direct contact with said first or second roll (3, 4), said third roll (5) is driven in rotation by friction in a direction and at a tangential speed substantially corresponding to those of said web (1).

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claim 1 to 18], comprising means (18, 19, 20) for causing said third roll (5) to run along the circumference of said second roll (4) until said third roll (5) abuts also said first roll (3).

30. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but neither between said second and third rolls (4, 5), nor between said first and third rolls (3, 5).

32. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web

(1) passes between said second and third rolls (4, 5), then between said first and third rolls (3, 5) and finally between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2).

34. A method for winding at least one web (1) on a winding roll (2), using an apparatus according to Claim 1[any one of claims 1 to 29], wherein, in said nominal winding position, said web (1) passes between said first and third rolls (3, 5) and then between said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2), but not between said second roll (4) and said third roll (5).

39. Method according to Claim 31[any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 38], characterized in that in step (iii), each roll among said first and second rolls (3, 4) coming into contact with said web (1) is caused to rotate before contacting said web (1) in the direction and at a tangential speed corresponding substantially to those of said web (1).

40. Method according to Claim 31[any one of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39], characterized in that in step (iii), said first roll (3) and said second roll (4) are caused to act as an idle roll before said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) come into contact.

41. Method according to Claim 31[anyone of claims 31, 33 and 35 to 39], characterized in that in step (iii), said third roll (5) and said winding roll (2) are brought into contact by a relative displacement along a direction which is not perpendicular to said third half-plane.

42. Method according to Claim 30[any one of claims 30 to 41], characterized in that in said nominal winding position, said web (1) is caused to arrive on said first or second roll (3, 4) substantially perpendicularly to said third half-plane.